(d) whether it is a fact that a number of cost auditors and companies have been booked for misconduct;

(e) if so, the details thereof during last three years, year-wise;

(f) whether it is a fact that his Ministry is considering a proposal to share the cost data with excise and other revenue authorities; and

(g) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE & COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) A copy each of the Cost Audit Report is made available to the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices and the concerned Administrative Ministry for such action as they may consider necessary and to other Government agencies on request. Cost Audit Reports are reviewed in my Ministry with reference to the requirements of the Companies Act, 1956 and Cost Audit (Report) Rules, 1968.

(b) No such instances have come to the notice of Government.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) and (g) Whenever any cost audit data is required by Excise and Revenue authorities, it is made available to them.

SCs/STs and Backward Classes who have benefited from legal aid.

1214. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision for legal aid to the persons whose cases are pending before the Supreme Court;

(b) if so, what is the number of persons who have received such benefit during the past three years; and

(c) what is the number of these beneficiaries who belong to SC/ST and backward classes, yearwise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir. A Supreme Court Legal Aid Committee has been functioning since July, 1981 for receiving and investigating applications for legal aid and advice and to provide for giving legal advice in matters filed or to be filed in the Supreme Court. Every citizen whose annual income is less than Rs. 9,000|-, is eligible for free legal aid for Supreme Court cases. There is no limitation as to income in respect of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Vimukta Jatis, Nomadic Tribes women and children.

(b) and (c) Information for the past three calender years is given below:—

Year	Total No. of beneficiaries	SCs	STs	Backward Classes
1988	759	54	15	..
1989	692	54	11	..
1990	578	49	17	3